31 Mar
1900Z

AFBMD INGLEWOOD CALIF

HQ USAF
ATTN: AFCCM COL SOPER
WASHINGTON D C

WDT-3-1-K. REFERENCE COL SOPER TO COL TERHUNE SATURDAY 22 MAR. ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT STATUS OF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAMS BY DIRECT COMPARISON WITH SCHEDULES PRESENTED YEAR AGO QUITE INVOLVED AND COULD BE MISLEADING UNLESS CAREFUL ACCOUNT TAKEN OF INFLUENCE OF VARIOUS FACTORS ON THE SCHEDULES. THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF PROGRESS IS ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL FORCE OF SPECIFIED CHARACTERISTICS. THE INTERVENING MILESTONES MUST OF NECESSITY HAVE A MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY TO COPE WITH VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE PROGRAM PROGRESS. DURING THE PAST YEAR RIGID ADHERENCE TO MILESTONE SCHEDULES HAS BEEN DIFFICULT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE NORMAL VARIATIONS EXPECTED IN AN R&D PROGRAM BUT ALSO IN PART BECAUSE OF SUCH FACTORS AS PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FORCE OBJECTIVES, LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURES AND OVERTIME, DECELERATION AND ACCELERATION OF ACTIVATION RATES, AND DECREASES AND INCREASES IN PRODUCTION RATES. ANALYSIS OF TODAYS 28 MAR 1900Z STATUS REVEALS A CONSTANT ADJUSTMENT OF MILESTONES TO MAXIMIZE EFFECTIVENESS 1958

WDT

DEPT COMDR TECH OPNS
CHARLES H. TERHUNE, JR., COL USAF
2208

S/ Gen Schriever

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[redacted] HAD EFFORT IN EACH PROGRAM, AND IN THE CASE OF THE THOR, A [redacted] ACCELERATION OVER THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULES. [redacted] [redacted] AFFECTING THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE MAY 58 PRESENTATION OF THE AF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAMS.

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